

REMARKS

I. Request for Continued Examination

Applicants request continued examination of the instant application under 37 C.F.R. 1.114.

II. Amendments to the Specification

Applicants have amended the first paragraph of the specification to identify the priority of the application. The instant application is a 35 U.S.C. §371 national application of PCT/US00/32434 filed December 6, 2000, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/169,856 filed on December 9, 1999.

III. Information Disclosure Statement

The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith includes art cited in the prosecution of co-owned and currently pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/113,157, which is a continuation-in-part of the instant application.

IV. Claim Listing

This response does not cancel, add, or amend claims. Thus, claims 2, 4-7, 12-15, and 19-31 are pending. All pending claims are shown in the previous section.

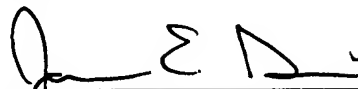
V. Conclusion

It is believed that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

A check in the amount of \$970.00 is enclosed for payment of the Request for Continued Examination fee. Applicants believe that they do not owe any additional fee in connection with this filing. If, however, Applicants do owe any additional fee(s), the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee(s) to Deposit Account No. 08-0750. In addition, if there is ever any other fee deficiency or overpayment under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or 1.17 in connection with this patent application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such deficiency or overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750.

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/031,898
Request for Continued Examination
October 12, 2005

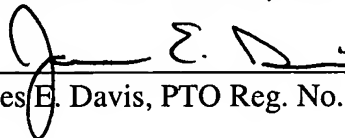
Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR §1.8

I certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on **October 12, 2005** with sufficient postage as first class mail (including Express Mail per MPEP §512), and addressed to **Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.**



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